



## Coventry Partnership Leaders & Advisors Meeting

### Notes of Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008

#### Present

Dawn Ford	Coventry Partnership (Chair)
Debbie Briggs	Equalities and Community Cohesion Theme Group
Peter Woodward	Environment Theme Group
Alison Porter	Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership
Richard Monk	Housing Theme Group
Sara Roach	Community Safety Partnership
Heather Thomson	Health and Well Being Group
Niall McChesney	CCC-Planning
Lesley Wroe	CCC-Planning
Melody Stokes	Environmental Theme Group
Tim Coleman	Communications Group
Mark Harder	Children and Young People's Partnership
Nigel Wain	Coventry Partnership (minutes)
Sue Bent	Equalities and Community Cohesion Theme Group
Cllr Ken Taylor	Chair of Coventry Partnership
Jane Malbasa	Learning, Skills and Employment Theme Group

#### Apologies

Jane Beaver	Learning, Skills and Employment Theme Group
Alice Davey	Cultural Partnership
Janita Wesson	Learning Disabilities Partnership
Nigel Mills	Transport Theme Group
Rebecca Young	Learning, Skills and Employment Theme Group
Deborah Harrod	Community Safety
Sally Giles	Children and Young People's Partnership

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees around the table introduced themselves. Apologies were noted.

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. It was noted that Sue Bent had attended the meeting and should not have been listed in the apologies.

Matter arising:-

- Caron Grainger had been invited to attend the November Partnership meeting.
- Helen Shankster's presentation on the new data management system had been deferred until the next meeting.
- Sara Roach has proposed that the Business group should be consulted on the strategic assessment of Business Crime in March.

Other issues were addressed by the agenda

### **3. Local Development Framework (LDF)**

Niall introduced the item by explaining that today's presentation on the LDF to the Theme Group Leaders and Advisers was the latest in a series of consultations with the Coventry Partnership and Theme groups.

The core strategy is part of the planning policy for the future of the city and reflects the RSS (Regional Spatial Strategy) about which a 1 year consultation was completed on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The delay in the RSS was due to the need to look at increasing the number of homes that need to be built in the region. Originally the RSS proposed 365,000 houses with 33,500 in Coventry. It has now been proposed that there should be a further 80,000 in the region but no increase was proposed for Coventry. The core strategy is the land use plan which supports the Sustainable Community Strategy and the emerging options paper sets out how the LDF will take forward the SCS.

Niall then summarised the key points from the LDF:-

- The City Centre will expand with an additional 150,000 sq meters floor space, 6000 extra dwellings and 250,000 sq meters more office space.
- The City centre will be the focus for additional jobs. Half of all new jobs will be in offices, a quarter by the Universities and Hospital.
- There is a shortage of industrial land in the city so some employment land may need to be provided outside the city.
- Only 21,000 of the extra houses can be provided in the existing built up area of Coventry, leaving a gap of 12,500.

- Areas are being identified to build the shortfall, including options for additional housing in Warwickshire and possibly some green belt.
- 25% of the housing in private developments of 15 or more should be affordable. Aspirational housing is also a key issue
- The LDF takes forward the Climate Change Strategy by supporting Flood Plains and improved quality of the Built environment
- The LDF sets the standard for the Green environment and makes it more accessible.
- New developments will be located where the need to travel is minimised.
- New Infrastructure is needed eg New Park and Ride facilities , North South railway and Bus improvements
- Green belt adjustment may be required to accommodate the replacement Waste to Energy plant

Tim agreed to put the link to the LDF on the Partnership web site.

The current Consultation period ended on the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, after which the comments will be taken on board before submission for approval by the Council followed by a 6 week consultation. There may also be an 2 week inspection period including public sessions.

### **Action**

**Lesley asked the attendees to let her know of any opportunities for them to consult with existing meetings/ groups already scheduled for early in the new year.**

#### **4. Cohesion Guidance Sue Bent and Debbie Briggs**

Sue reported that the key responsibility of the Theme group was to ensure the Equalities and Communities agenda is embedded across all the work of the partnership. This was being approached in two ways:-

- Working with individual LAA leads.
- Producing guidance on best practise for use by Partners .

LAA leads are being invited to have a conversation with the group on how they are taking the Equalities and Cohesion agenda on board in LAA delivery plans to see if they need any assistance.

Community Cohesion is not so well understood as equalities. Andrew Harrison- an external consultant has been commissioned to look at how

Community Cohesion was addressed in the NRF projects and has worked with groups to build a consensus on understanding what Community Cohesion might mean. The output of this work will be a practical guide on Community Cohesion. The guide will cover what cohesion is, what it might feel like, a list of good practise and some guidance on how to build the approach into practical work.

The group is also working with the PIE group to develop a basket of indicators to see how cohesion can be measured. National indicators are based on perception surveys.

Sue was considering how best to launch the guide in the New Year and asked the group for their suggestions.

People wanted to see the guide before finalising the best approach but people generally thought an event would provide a powerful vehicle to launch the guide to Theme groups and partners organisations. There may also be a need develop appropriate training courses for partners to ensure the good practise is implemented. Dawn proposed that the guide should be linked to the Cohesion strategy. Ken asked the group to consider how the guide could be communicated to communities who don't readily speak English

### **Action**

**It was agreed that the Guide would be presented at the next meeting in Feb.**

### **Action**

**Tim suggested that Sue could also attend the Communications group in March to discuss how the guide could be publicised to Partners.**

## **5. Feedback from Theme Groups**

- **Environment Group (Peter Woodward)**

Peter outlined the intensive work over the last 2 weeks to scope and agree the next steps for the high priority activities agreed at the initial scoping meeting in Sept. The activities were:-

- An Arial Thermal Image survey to identify houses where additional insulation measures could be promoted
- An Innovative decentralised heating ring.

- o Positioning Coventry as a world leader for low carbon vehicles
- o A centre for the demonstration of Low Carbon technologies
- o Growing Coventry to increase natural food supply
- o External street scene.

Peter had identified that the Partnership would add value to each of these activities. Melody reported that the minutes of the scoping meetings would be available before Christmas.

- **Community Safety (Sarah Roach)**

Sarah reported that the key activity at the moment was the work to redesign Drug and alcohol treatment services to promote abstinence rather than maintenance. Some money is available to pilot projects and develop the links to housing and employment. Offender management is improve their links to employment. There is a promotional campaign in the city focused on risks of binge drinking over the holiday period backed up with high visibility multiagency work across the city. £90K has been provided to deliver the Youth Crime action plan. The recent strategic assessment highlighted the need to focus on Serious Acquisitive crime, Violent Crime and antisocial behaviour and Criminal damage. A number of ideas on how to address these with improved joined up partnership activity have been proposed.

**Action**

**Sarah suggested it might be useful to bring the Community Safety strategic assessment to the next Leaders and advisors meeting.**

- **Physical and Mental Health Partnership (Alison Porter)**

Alison informed the group that the next Stakeholders event was scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> March

- **Housing (Richard Monk)**

Richard highlighted work with Niall and Lesley on the housing in LDF and the recent Housing Market Summit where key stakeholders assessed the impact of the economic crunch on housing. Coventry Building Society saw this as an inevitable housing market correction but they had not made the risky investments of other banks. A bid for European funding for a pilot project to convert existing housing

stock for zero carbon emissions has been submitted. The next housing Theme group would focus on financial inclusion- a big issue for residents living in social housing.

- **Health (Heather Thomson)**

Heather reported that the group were reviewing the Terms of reference and roll of the group. They planned to visit Derby and Stoke-on-Trent to see how their health partnerships operated.

- **ELSE (Jane Malbasa)**

Work loads in JCP and Partner agencies have already increased as a result of the economic climate. Much of the mainstream resources are focused on dealing with the higher number of claims. The partnership is looking to be more efficient and avoid duplication to ensure the capacity remains to focus on the new claims as well as providing support to the more disadvantaged groups. The Economic Recovery Group has been established to share intelligence and plan how to respond to redundancies. Community Safety have set up an employment sub group and work with housing associations on employment advice to tenants is being piloted in one priority neighbourhood. The Environment Aerial Survey project has the potential for jobs and skills training around insulations.

- **Communications Group (Tim Coleman)**

Tim has now taken over as the chair of the group and Terms of Reference have been revised. He will present the new group and terms of reference to the Next Partnership Board. The group ensures that unified messages are developed. A communications calendar has been published showing media opportunities. A Partnership video is being prepared by Central Vision TV. New Pull Up Banners are available. We have also received an external enquiry to invite us to share our success in developing a unified brand which is adopted across partners.

- **Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (Mark Harder)**

Mark highlighted the success of the 11m day in November which received extensive press coverage and they had run a teenage sexual health event which had generated many new ideas. A staying safe event attended by 80/90 people generated many ideas to improve child protection. There is increasing focus on the child poverty agenda. The next annual data day is scheduled for the 3rd April.

- **Transport (Nigel Wain)**

Nigel reported on the successful Transport Forum held in partnership with the Community of Interest Partnership Boards. Issues around support for people who needed help to get to the hospital from the car park, Taxi driver training on disabled issues and Ring and Ride access to hospitals were raised. Interestingly the Bus service in general was praised by the attendees. The group was also scheduling a stock take review for the next meeting to plan the Theme groups future work program and focus.

- **Partnership Issues (Dawn Ford)**

Dawn reported that she was working with internal audit to look at the governance arrangements of the partnership . Meetings were planned with CSWP LSP officers to share best practice across Partnerships .

## **6. Performance Management – Action Plans**

Dawn reported the outcomes of the Partnership forward planning event. Several key questions were asked of the partners, there responses were:-

### **What does the Partnership do well?**

Building relationships, The board are engaged and committed, Generates Trust between partners, inclusive of all sectors, good structure, Enduring

### **What could we do better?**

Clarify Rolls and Responsibilities and Governance, More focus on outcomes, Better communication of real Partnership achievements , be more challenging, reporting outcomes to board, raising partnership issues around the table

### **What could we start doing?**

Using skill of the organisations, focus on fewer issues, Improving Links to the Partnership board by the Theme groups, more focus on LAA/SCS, Coordination of consultations across the city

### **What could we stop doing?**

Less meetings/talking, more action

The fewer priorities the board agreed to focus on were:- the economy and alcohol

Leaders and Advisers (16.10.08)

Dawn would be taking these points on board when developing the improvement plan for the Partnership.

### **Action**

**Dawn also asked the group to work with the Partnership Support Officers to ensure the Theme group Action plans were up to date. Sarah Perry the new officer starting in Jan and Nigel would be in contact to progress this.**

## **7. AOB**

Tim reminded the Leaders and advisors to send him articles for the next Partnership E-bulletin.

Nigel reported that GOWM had asked to attend the ELSE, Environment and Health Theme group meetings- he has circulated details to the respective contacts

**Date of Next Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov all times 10-12

Nigel Wain  
13/Jan 09